

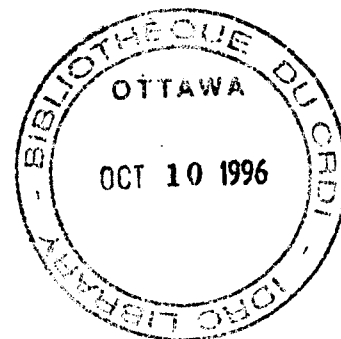
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***Global Initiative for Traditional Systems (GIFTS) of Health***

***Report***

***December 12, 1993***



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### **GIFTS - Revised Outline**

Attached, please find a copy of the latest revised copy of the GIFTS of Health Outline which attempts to reflect the suggestions and concerns of several people involved in the informal IDRC Traditional Health Group.

Importantly, this version highlights the importance of including gender in traditional health systems. Furthermore, it attempts to stress the need to address issues of Biological and Cultural Diversity as well as the critical issue of Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) and Farmer's Rights.

Finally, it indicates the changes in dates and locations for the Ottawa workshop and suggested regional workshops.

For the record, while progressive changes have been made, the GIFTS outline continues to focus on "traditional medicine" per se rather than "traditional health systems." It is noted that the GIFTS spotlight rests on preventive and curative *medicine* and ignores, to a large extent, promotive and preventive *practices* which are also important elements in traditional health systems.

### **GIFTS - Information Kit**

One of the initial objectives of the GIFTS initiative was to produce an "information kit" or manual to assist organisers and participants in identifying key issues, actors, sources, conferences, and policy windows. The GIFTS Information Kit seeks to provide a basis on which to build an effective and provocative process leading to broader conceptualizations of health issues and practices.

At this point, the GIFTS Information Kit is intended for a limited audience. Should further copies be required in the future, please ensure that the World Council of Indigenous Peoples is contacted and formal permission granted to reproduce the document entitled, "Draft Declaration as Agreed Upon by the Members of the Working Group at its Eleventh Session." The document is presently included with (interim) credits given to WCIP, who provided the document.

Letters of permission to reproduce documents from ILO and WHO are included in the binder of correspondence under Tab - International Donor Replies. The International Women's

Tribune Centre permits reproduction of documents in full or in part as long as they are credited.

Policy issues are suggested only and are by no means exhaustive.

A couple of IDRC Traditional Health Group members informally requested that information on the activities of International Donor Agencies with respect to Traditional Health Systems (THS) be included in an information kit. Tab V identifies several international donor agencies, their support (or non-support) of THS, and their contact addresses, telephone numbers, and faxes where available. Activities are provided for those organisations who kindly responded to my request for information. Other organisations can be contacted for information.

Tab VI highlights a number of meetings and conferences pertinent to issues of THS, Intellectual Property Rights, Biodiversity, and Ecosystem Health.

IDRC regional offices were asked to provide the GIFTS process with their own projects in THS, as well as suggestions. The projects presented here are drawn from the Ottawa Data Base only as the only response to requests came from MERO, who noted that they are not involved in any THS projects.

Two sets of the GIFTS Information Kit will be sent to the International Labour Organisation to complete the obligations for permission to reproduce document.

A loose copy of the document rests with the GIFTS Initiative file for further reproduction.

### **GIFTS Organising Committee Meeting - Minutes**

Attached, please find a copy of the Minutes from the first GIFTS Organising Committee meeting held on November 26, 1993.

### **Correspondence**

Over the course of the contract, several binders of correspondence were collected. Two binders contain letters and curriculum vitae for contacts made for the earlier project on "Women's Indigenous Knowledge in Animal Health and Production." This correspondence rests with Dr. Elizabeth McGregor, who was a key player in the earlier initiative.

The third binder rests with the GIFTS Initiative and includes queries to and responses from funding agencies, a list of contact researchers and institutions for the earlier Animal Health initiative, and letters informing those contacts of the newer GIFTS initiative.

### **GIFTS Readings**

Three sets of readings were created so that anyone involved in the GIFTS initiative could explore, quickly and easily, some of the key issues relevant to traditional systems of health.

Importantly, healers who treat people also treat animals. Therefore readings in both areas are included. The area of ecosystem health is a contentious one. Two views are presented, one in support of the concept (Rapport, 1989), the other against (Suter, 1993). The area of ecosystem health broadens our parameters of health to include the whole environment and the interactions and interdependencies between the health of people and the health of the environment.

The readings in Gender, Science, and Technology provide a necessary critique of Western based science (and subsequently biomedicine) and permit a revisitation of the definition and validation of different bases of knowledge.

The readings include:

- **Selected Readings in Traditional Health and Ecosystem Health**
- **Selected Readings in Ethnoveterinary Medicine and Practices**
- **Selected Readings in Gender, Science, and Technology**

One set has been distributed to Anwar Islam while two sets remain with Rosina Wiltshire.